



Power Tools

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

Mishap Data

☞ The most common power-tool accident involves injuries to the fingers. About half of all finger amputations in the U.S. each year involve a power tool, usually a saw. Of these finger injuries, 55% occurred while operating the power tool at home.

☞ Many power-tool injuries occur because the user doesn't remove the power source while changing parts on or adjusting the tool.

Do's and Don'ts

☞ Insulation is a primary protection against electric shock, but it can get worn or cracked. Inspect it regularly. Look for frayed cords on power tools.

☞ Replace damaged electrical equipment or have it repaired at an authorized repair center. Replace frayed cords, broken plugs or cracks that could cause hazards; cut and throw out damaged cords.

☞ Plug grounded (3-wire) tools only into grounded outlets.

☞ Don't pick up power tools by their power cords.

☞ Don't work with electric tools when it's raining.

☞ Don't lose concentration when using a power tool. If you get tired or distracted, take a break until you can focus.

☞ Beware of inexperience and overconfidence.



Naval Safety Center
375 A Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx

Contact the Media Division
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- ☞ Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
- ☞ Use the right tool for the job.
- ☞ Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ☞ Use the right personal protective equipment: safety goggles dust masks, hearing protection.
- ☞ Don't turn on a power tool until guards are in place.
- ☞ Never remove or bypass a tool guard.
- ☞ Don't use a malfunctioning power tool—fix it or replace it.
- ☞ Unplug power tools before adjusting them.
- ☞ Use a vise or clamps to secure materials so that you can use both hands to operate the tool.
- ☞ Turn off a power tool before you put it down.
- ☞ Keep your finger off the switch when you carry a plugged-in power tool.



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